

CHAPTER SIX

NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MENTAL

RETARDED CHILDREN

In this chapter an attempt will be made to discuss the Nature of retarded children, i.e. Reaction, Controlling capacity, Understanding, Charity, Decision making capacity, Memory power, Reading, Writing etc. Also the parents evaluation and type of mental retardation is explained.

6.1. Table showing the Reaction of Retarded Children

Reaction	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Slow	13	26
2) Medium	13	26
3) No	24	48
Total	50	100

Of the fifty children it was found that thirteen (26 %) were slow in reaction, and thirteen (26 %) have medium reaction, remaining twentyfour (48 %) are not giving reactions.

In short it is concluded that majority (48 %) of the children have no reaction.

6.2: Table showing the respondents according to their control of emotions

Control	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Children who can control the feelings.	9	18
2) Children who could not control the feelings.	41	82
Total	50	100

Among the fifty respondents. It was found out that only 9 (18 %) children could control their feelings. Remaining fortyone (82 %) could not controlling their feelings.

So it is understood that most (82 %) of the children were not in a position to control their feelings.

6.3: Table showing the understanding or comprehension capacity of the handicapped children

Understanding capacity	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Slow understanding	26	52
2) Medium understanding	14	28
3) Poorest understanding	10	20
Total	50	100

Out of the fifty children 26 (52 %) were slow in understanding, 14 (28 %) had medium understanding capacity, while remaining 10 (20 %) children had poorest understanding

comprehension or capacity.

Majority of the children were slow in (i.e. what they see, hear, touch or taste, etc.) understanding.

6.4. Table showing the handicapped children capacity of clarity

Clarity	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) No.of respondents who have clarity.	14	28
2) No.of respondents who donot have clarity.	36	72
Total	50	100

The above table indicates that the majority of the mentally handicapped children were not expressing their thoughts, feelings and needs clearly. That is out of the fifty respondents 36 (72 %) children were not expressing clearly, while 14 (28 %) could express clearly.

In short it was found that most of the children were not expressing their thoughts, feelings and needs clearly.

6.5. Table showing the decision making capabilities of the handicapped children.

Respondents Decision making Capacity	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Who have decision making capabilities.	16	32
2) Who donot have decision making capabilities.	34	68
Total	50	100

The above table indicate that out of the fifty children 16 (32 %) had decision making capacity and 34 (68 %) of them had no deciding capabilities.

In short majority i.e. 34 (68 %) had no decision making capabilities.

6.6: Table showing the memory of the retarded children

Memory	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Children who have short time memory.	35	70
2) Children who have long time memory.	7	14
3) Children who have poorest time memory.	8	16
Total	50	100

The above figures indicate that out of the fifty children, 35 (70 %) remembered things for a short time, 7 (14 %) had the capacity of long time memory, but remaining 8 (16 %) had poorest memory.

It was found that majority of the children i.e. 35 (70 %) could remember things for a short duration of time.

6.7: Table showing the distribution of respondents who could eat by themselves.

Eat	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) No.of respondents who could eat by themselves.	38	76
2) No.of respondents who could not eat by themselves.	12	24
Total	50	100

Out of the fifty children 38 (76 %) were eating food by themselves while remaining 12 (24 %) are could not eating by themselves.

It is understood that majority of the children (76 %) were eating by themselves.

6.8. Table showing the distribution of handi-
capped who could dress by themselves.

Dress	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) No.of respondents who could dress by themselves.	28	56
2) No.of respondents who could not dress by themselves.	22	44
Total	50	100

Out of the fifty respondents 28 (56 %) children were wearing the dressess by themselves while remaining 22 (44 %) could not wearing the dresses by themselves.

6.9. Table showing the learning capacity of
the handicapped children.

Learning	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Very slow	36	72
2) Medium	9	18
3) Well	5	10
Total	50	100

It was found that out of the fifty children 36 (72 %) were slow in learning 9 (18 %) of them had medium learning capacity, while remaining 5 (10 %) have got well capacity of learning.

Through this it is clearly understood that majority of the children i.e. 36 (72 %) were slow in learning.

6.10. Table showing the Distribution of handi-capped children who could Read and Write

Reading and Writing	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) No.of respondents who could read and write.	18	36
2) No.of respondents who could not read and write.	32	64
Total	50	100

The above figures indicate that of the fifty children 18 (36 %) could read and write the alphabets, simple sentencies and do simple Mathematics, while remaining 32 (64 %) children could not read and write.

It shows that majority of the children (64 %) could not read and write.

6.11. Table showing the distribution of respondents parents according to their evaluation of child retardation problem

Attitude	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1) Low mental development	22	44
2) No response	15	30
3) Absolutely no mental development.	9	18
4) Mental disease	4	8
Total	50	100

From the above table we find that 22 parents (44 %) said that their children suffered from low mental development, while 9 (18 %) parents said that their children mental development was absolutely nil, 4 parents (8 %) accounted the retardation problem to some mental disease. A significant number i.e. 15 (30 %) parents gave no response. This was probably because of lack of understanding of the researchers question.

6.12: Table showing the type or category of mental retardation of the handicapped children

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1) Educable mentally retarded.	35	70
2) Trainable mentally retarded.	11	22
3) Totally depended mentally retarded.	4	8
Total	50	100

Out of the fifty respondents there are 35 (70 %) retarded children who can be educated, while there are 11 (22 %) retarded children who need to be trained. There are 4 (8 %) children who are totally dependent on others.